

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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December 24, 2008

RT11/08-288564R

The Honorable Helen Gillmor,
Chief U. S. District Judge,
and U. S. Judges of the District of Hawaii
U. S. District Court
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, C-400
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-0400

Dear Judge Gillmor and U. S. Judges of the District of Hawaii:

Subject: Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project

This is in response to your letter dated November 18, 2008, to the Federal Transit Administration, Region IX, in which you stated your opposition to the proposed rail transit system route on Halekauwila Street adjacent to the Federal Court Building, due to security concerns.

The decision by the Honolulu City Council in 2006 to locate the rail transit system route on Halekauwila Street was the culmination of extensive alternatives screening and consideration of public comments. A year long effort to screen all viable alternatives was followed by numerous opportunities for the public and all government agencies to present their views on what should be the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). We would have hoped that you had taken the opportunities to provide your comments on the LPA at that time. Any changes to the LPA that was identified in Ordinance 07-001 would require City Council action.

During the October 16, 2008 meeting, you expressed your concern regarding the high security risk that a fixed guideway on Halekauwila Street would pose to the Federal Court Building. Prior to this meeting, we considered the Federal Court Building to have the same security risks and design standards associated with other federal facilities and high-rise buildings along the rail transit system alignment. There are examples of rail systems in other cities that applied the same standards even when the court buildings were nearer to the rail alignment than what is proposed in Honolulu. However, because of your concerns regarding your special situation, a security analysis was prepared specific to the Federal Court Building. While you may disagree with the findings of the

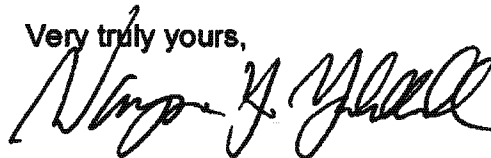
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analysis, it was prepared by security specialists with vast knowledge regarding the examples of the terrorist activities that you cited. The security analysis also includes several security enhancements that can be made to the Federal Court Building.

We do share your concern for security. The Department of Transportation Services is committed to providing a safe and secure rail transit system and will meet all known security standards. As indicated in your letter, we do not have access to the security standards for federal court buildings. Since 9/11, security standards for federal court buildings and other federal facilities have been restricted. We would appreciate your review of our project and specific recommendations based on the restricted design standards, if they are not being met by our current proposal.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together to an amenable solution. The Department of Transportation Services point of contact for this matter is Mr. Harvey Berliner. Mr. Berliner can be contacted at (808) 768-6123 or at hberliner@honolulu.gov.

Very truly yours,



WAYNE Y. YOSHIOKA
Director

cc: Mr. Leslie T. Rogers, Region IX Administrator
Federal Transit Administration

Mr. Mark M. Hanohano, U.S. Marshal for the District of Hawaii